



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/192,014	11/13/1998	LEIGH L. KLOTZ JR.	D/98703	9266

7590

07/29/2002

JOHN E. BECK
XEROX CORPORATION
XEROX SQUARE 20A
ROCHESTER, NY 14644

EXAMINER

BASHORE, WILLIAM L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

BA

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/192,014

Applicant(s)

KLOTZ ET AL.

Examiner

William L. Bashore

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 11, 14 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 11, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: amendment filed 4/30/2002, to the original application filed 11/13/1998. IDS filed 11/13/1998 (paper #4), and 7/9/2001 (paper #5).
2. The objection to the title of the invention has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
3. The rejection of claims 7-10, 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Irons has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
4. Claims 1, 4-6, remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irons. ✓
5. Claims 2-3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irons and Xerox.
6. The rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irons has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
7. Claims 1-6, 11, 14-15 are pending. Claims 7-10 and 12-13 have been canceled by Applicant. Claim 11 has been made independent. Claims 1, 11, 14-15 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, 4-6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irons, U.S. Patent No. 6,192,165, filed December 30, 1997, and issued February 20, 2001.

Art Unit: 2176

In regard to independent claim 1, Irons teaches:

- a scanner for scanning a document along with an affixed label (Irons column 8 lines 1-10; compare with claim 1 “*A method for processing....comprising the steps of*”, and “*scanning the document to produce an image representative of the document*”).

- subsequent to scanning, locating and decoding the digitized label from said document, said label associated with a user ID (Irons column 8 lines 4-10, column 11 lines 30-36, Figure 5; compare with claim 1 “*locating the user interface tag in the image*”, “*decoding data represented in the user interface tag*”, and “*...a user identity...*”).

- storing said number as an index (linked) to a database for facilitating later retrieval of a document onto an output device, as well as a document invoice indicative of a service (Irons column 7 lines 55-61, Figure 8, 9). Irons does not specifically teach performing a service associated with document data. However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Irons, because Irons teaches that the machine readable portion of a label may contain additional information, such as information on document disposition (Irons column 11 lines 22-26; compare with claim 1 “*associating the data with a service....performing the specified service*”), suggesting a performed service, and providing the advantage of disposition associated with the invoices of Irons Figure 8, 9.

In regard to dependent claim 4, Irons teaches extracting a user identity code from an analyzed label, said code associated with a database for additional information (Irons column 8 lines 5-14, column 11 lines 29-40, Figure 5; compare with claim 4).

In regard to dependent claims 5-6, Irons teaches storing a code as an index (linked) to a database for facilitating later retrieval of a document onto an output device, as well as a document invoice indicative of a service (Irons column 7 lines 55-61, Figure 8, 9). Irons does not specifically teach

Art Unit: 2176

extracting a service code. However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Irons, because Irons teaches that the machine readable portion of a label may contain additional information, such as information on document disposition (Irons column 11 lines 22-26; compare with claims 5-6, suggesting a service (or invoice) code associated with said invoice, and providing the advantage of an index code associated with the invoices of Irons Figure 8, 9.

10. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irons as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of *Xerox touts DataGlyphs for paper data* (hereinafter Xerox), Seybold Report on Desktop Publishing, Vol. 9, No. 5, copyright 1996, pp.1-3, downloaded on 12/6/2001 from <url: http://www.seyboldseminars.com/seybold_report/reports/D0905001.HTM>.

In regard to dependent claims 2-3, Irons teaches identification of a machine readable ID image bar code label (Irons Figure 4; compare with claim 2 "*identifying a connected component in the image*") Irons teaches the use of high density symbologies for encoding an image file (Irons column 11 lines 18-23). Irons does not specifically teach finding extreme points, determination of a diagonal length, and a rectangle including said points, as well determination of a lattice of glyphs, a seed glyph, identifying a rotation, and converting said glyphs to binary data. However, Xerox teaches DataGlyph coding, which comprises blocks (rectangles) of data represented as diagonal lines, the analyzed slope of which (either left or right) are indicative of binary data within an analyzed block. The data is grouped into blocks to which framing is added. In addition, said coding is embedded in an error-correcting code utilizing redundant bits, and encoded bytes reordered in a pseudorandom way (requiring a seed) (Xerox pages 1-3, especially bottom of page 1 to top of page 2; compare with claims 2-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Xerox to Irons, because of Xerox's

taught advantage of DataGlyphs, providing the labels of Irons a symbology especially designed for the rigors of a hardcopy environment (Xerox page 2, near top).

11. Claims 11, 14-15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irons, U.S. Patent No. 6,192,165, filed December 30, 1997, issued February 20, 2001, in view of Barton et al. (hereinafter Barton), U.S. Patent No. 5,998,752, filed March 16, 1998, issued December 7, 1999.

In regard to dependent claim 11, Irons teaches:

- printing a document label comprising a machine-readable data code, said label is associated with, and affixed to a hardcopy document prior to scanning of said document, said code incorporating a user identity code (Irons column 11 lines 4-15, 27-41, column 12 lines 41-60; compare with claim 11 "*A user interface tag....code representative of a user's identity*").

- Irons does not specifically teach a service code for specifying a service to be performed on a hardcopy document. However, Barton teaches a mail processing system including sorting stations for various pieces of mail. The sorting of a mail item is dependent upon the intended address of a mail item, as well as class of service, etc. (Barton column 1 lines 5-8, 59-62, column 2 lines 1-10). A bar code can be applied to a mail item, uniquely identifying said item (Barton column 2 lines 11-14, 55-58). It is to be noted that a bar code can be applied to a post card, since a post card is a known form of a hardcopy document, as well as a known form of mail item. Barton teaches printing a routing code (a machine-readable form of the destination address) onto said mail item (Barton column 4 lines 64-67, column 5 lines 1-5). The routing code specifies a service to be performed on a mail item (i.e. a post card), since the routing code is used by the sorting system (and by a post office in general), to direct said mail item to a particular destination (compare with claim 11 "*a service code specifying a service to be performed on said hardcopy document.*"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention to apply Barton's routing code to Irons bar code information, providing Irons the capability of mailing a printed copy of an invoice to a destination (Irons Figure 9) using a routing code.

In regard to independent claim 14, Irons discloses:

- creating user interface tags associated with documents (Irons Abstract; compare with claim 14 *"An apparatus for....comprising:"*).

- receiving information (user ID) reflective of a user, said user ID used for creating a unique document number (identity code) (Irons column 11 lines 27-42, Figure 5; compare with claim 14 *"an identity processor adapted to receive user information and create an identity code"*).

- storing said number as an index to a database (Irons column 7 lines 50-60; compare with claim 14 *"a user information database....with the identity code"*).

- printing a user interface sticker comprising a machine readable identity code (Irons column 12 lines 41-50, Figure 4; compare with claim 14 *"an output device capable of printing a tag bearing....representative of the identity code"*).

- Irons does not specifically teach a service code for specifying a service to be performed on a hardcopy document. However, Barton teaches a mail processing system including sorting stations for various pieces of mail. The sorting of a mail item is dependent upon the intended address of a mail item, as well as class of service, etc. (Barton column 1 lines 5-8, 59-62, column 2 lines 1-10). A bar code can be applied to a mail item, uniquely identifying said item (Barton column 2 lines 11-14, 55-58). It is to be noted that a bar code can be applied to a post card, since a post card is a known form of a hardcopy document, as well as a known form of mail item. Barton teaches printing a routing code (a machine-readable form of the destination address) onto said mail item (Barton column 4 lines 64-67, column 5 lines 1-5). The routing code specifies a service to be performed on a mail item (i.e. a post card), since the routing code is used by the sorting system (and by a post office in general), to direct said mail item to a particular destination (compare with claim 14 *"a service to be performed on a document to which said*

user interface tag is affixed.”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Barton’s routing code to Irons bar code information, providing Irons the capability of mailing a printed copy of an invoice to a destination (Irons Figure 9) using a routing code.

In regard to independent claim 15, Irons teaches:

- a scanner for scanning a document along with an affixed label (Irons column 8 lines 1-10; compare with claim 15 “*a scanner adapted....of the document*”).
- subsequent to scanning, identifying and decoding the digitized label from said document (Irons column 8 lines 4-10; compare with claim 15 “*an action processor adapted to identify....in the user interface tag*”).
- Irons does not specifically teach a service code for specifying a service to be performed on a hardcopy document. However, Barton teaches a mail processing system including sorting stations for various pieces of mail. The sorting of a mail item is dependent upon the intended address of a mail item, as well as class of service, etc. (Barton column 1 lines 5-8, 59-62, column 2 lines 1-10). A bar code can be applied to a mail item, uniquely identifying said item (Barton column 2 lines 11-14, 55-58). It is to be noted that a bar code can be applied to a post card, since a post card is a known form of a hardcopy document, as well as a known form of mail item. Barton teaches printing a routing code (a machine-readable form of the destination address) onto said mail item (Barton column 4 lines 64-67, column 5 lines 1-5). The routing code specifies a service to be performed on a mail item (i.e. a post card), since the routing code is used by the sorting system (and by a post office in general), to direct said mail item to a particular destination (compare with claim 15 “*said information including information indicating a service to be performed on said hardcopy document.*”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Barton’s routing code to Irons bar code information, providing Irons the capability of mailing a printed copy of an invoice to a destination (Irons Figure 9) using a routing code.

- storing said number as an index (linked) to a database for facilitating later retrieval of a document onto an output device (Irons column 7 lines 55-61; compare with claim 15 "*a device operated by the....represented in the user interface tag.*").

12. **Prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to disclosure.**

Harrison et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,249,226	issued	06-2001
Baker et al.	U.S. Patent No. 5,790,429	issued	08-1998

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments filed 4/30/2002 have been fully and carefully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is to be noted that Applicant's newly added claim limitations (regarding claims 11, 14-15) "*specifying a service to be performed on said hardcopy document*", and "*a service to be performed on a document to which said user interface tag is affixed*" (i.e. a hardcopy document) reflects a change in scope of the claimed limitations not previously considered, since a service (via service code) is now performed on a hardcopy document. The Examiner introduces Barton to teach this limitation.

Applicant argues on pages 4-5 of the amendment that Irons does not teach data within a user interface tag includes information indicating and subsequently causing a service to be performed. Claims 11, 14-15 are specifically claiming a service code specifying a service to be performed on a physical document. The Examiner applies newly found reference (Barton) to teach this limitation as it is applied to hardcopy documents (see above). It is noted that claim 1 does not necessarily connect any particular "service" with a document (or its image). In other words, the data (i.e. bar code data) is associated with a service, which is then performed. Irons teaches that additional information can be included within its bar code related to a scanned document (i.e. information regarding disposition of said document). This is

Art Unit: 2176

suggestive of a service, because it reflects book keeping information to be presented to a user, if requested, or presented and stored within the system of Irons for later processing.

Conclusion

14. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William Bashore whose telephone number is **(703) 308-5807**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on **(703) 308-5186**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900**.

Art Unit: 2176

16. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:


(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or:

(703) 746-7238 (for after-final communications)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

William L. Bashore
07/21/2002


JOSEPH H. FEILD
PRIMARY EXAMINER